

Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A valve for selectively providing access to a supply of drinking fluid retained within a portable flexible container, the valve comprising:
 - a tubular body having at one end a stem insertable into an opening in communication with the container and at its other end an outlet through which fluid from the container can leave the valve;
 - a piston mounted for sliding movement within a central bore of the body;
 - a coil spring for urging the piston into engagement with an annular seating positioned at the bore end closest to the outlet; and
 - a separable connector for moving the piston against the action of the ~~resilient~~ means coil spring to enable fluid to be drawn from the container past the piston and through the outlet, [the connector comprising a housing closed at one end by a plate and having at the other end an annular ring that is movable towards the plate only when the connector is connected to the valve to provide an aperture through which fluid can pass into and through the connector.]
2. (Currently Amended) A valve as claimed in claim 1[2], wherein the container is connected to the valve through a flexible conduit one end of which defines the opening of the conduit remote from the container.

3. (Previously Presented) A valve as claimed in claim 2, wherein the stem is formed with two or more annular serrations or steps to assist retention within the opening in communication with the container.

4. (Original) A valve as claimed in claim 3, wherein the stepped stem is inserted into that end of the conduit remote from the container.

5. – 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A valve as claimed in claim 1, wherein the annular seating is tapered inwardly towards the outlet of the valve with the piston end closest to the outlet being similarly tapered to provide an effective seal as the piston is urged by the spring into contact with the seating.

8. (Original) A valve as claimed in claim 1, wherein the piston includes one or more internal open-ended passageways through which water drawn into the valve can pass to the outlet when the piston is moved away from its seating.

9. (Original) A valve as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outlet is formed in a tubular end piece of the body.

10. (Original) A valve as claimed in claim 1, wherein the end of the piston remote from the stem is positioned below the outlet.

11. (Original) A valve as claimed in claim 10, wherein the piston is movable from its position in sealing engagement with the annular seating by a male member carried by a conduit through which drinking fluid can be drawn from the container.

12. (Original) A valve as claimed in claim 11, wherein the male member comprises a tubular casing in which is mounted a central rod spaced from an internal wall of the casing by an annular seal displaceable through contact with the piston end.

13. (Cancelled)